

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14079 112042Z

71

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /011 W

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R 111521Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5591

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14079

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (TILLMAN, SETH)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TILLMAN VISIT

1. TILLMAN AND ASHWORTH SAW INTERESTING SELECTION LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS DURING VISIT HERE, AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY AND DAO OFFICIALS. THEY POINTED OUT TO LEBANESE OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN DANGERS OF PROLONGED OIL EMBARGO ON ARAB RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES, STEMMING FROM POPULAR RESENTMENT AND INABILITY USG GIVEN IN TO WHAT IS SEEN AS BLACKMAIL NO MATTER HOW JUST ARAB CAUSE MAY IN FACT BE. THEY ALSO STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF USG EFFORTS HELP BRING ABOUT JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. LEBANESE FONOFFICE OFFICIAL (NEWLY-DESIGNATED SEC GEN) TOLD TILLMAN THAT LEBANESE AMBASSADORS IN UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE ALSO REPORTING DANGERS OF BACKLASH FROM EXCESSIVE OIL PRESSURES BY ARAB STATES. HOWEVER, FOR PRESENT SAUDI ARABIA WHICH PLAYING DOMINANT ROLE SHOWS NO SIGNS OF RELAXING PRESSURE. SAME OFFICIAL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SAUDIS TAKING OVERLY-HARD LINE ON JERUSALEM IN PRESSING FOR IT TO BECOME "ARAB CITY" AND IN REPORTEDLY DEMANDING THAT EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS SUPPORT IDEA THAT QUESTION OF JERUSALEM BE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS RATHER THAN LAST WHEN SECOND PHASE OF GENEVA PEACE TALKS BEGINS.

3. IN TALKS WITH SOME OF FEDAYEEN OFFICIALS, LATTER INDICATED TO
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STAFFDEL THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA PEACE

TALKS IF INVITED AND WOULD BE READY SERIOUSLY CONSIDER IDEA OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG CRITICISMS OF USG POLICY BUT ALSO INDICATED DESIRE HAVE GREATER CONTACT WITH USG OFFICIALS.

4. ASHWORTH TALKED TO DAO AND LEBANESE ARMY OFFICERS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SYRIAN MILITARY SITUATION.
BUFFUM

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